

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the discussion below.

Applicant's invention is concerned with a system and a method whereby information concerning the traffic situation in a vehicle is electronically processed and sent to a second location or vehicle. Only relevant information concerning the traffic situation, which is able to be viewed by the driver of the first vehicle, is relayed. Along with the important traffic information, the system also includes a means for communication in both directions between the first vehicle and the second party. In order to provide important information without miscellaneous details of the environment, the present invention utilizes a method and a system whereby relevant information is extracted concerning the traffic situation.

Claims 1-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over the reference to Wilkinson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,122,521, in view of Thomason, U.S. Patent No. 6,217,039, as indicated at pages 2-4 of the patent Office Action. According to the rejection, the reference to Wilkinson has no indication that the arrangement is capable of transmitting simultaneously both telephone conversation and a visual image to the second party. However, the secondary reference to Thomason is cited for teaching a wireless video/audio data remote system, which allows both a telephone conversation and a visual image. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to apply the Thomason teaching to modify the arrangement disclosed by

Wilkinson and that it would also have been obvious to arrange the audiovisual system of Wilkinson as modified by Thomason in a vehicle.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the grounds that independent claims 1, 7 and 8 provide a method and a structure not shown or disclosed, or made obvious by, the references or their combination.

The reference to Wilkinson concerns a telecommunications locating system in order to locate persons and objects using a remote unit and a base unit. The control 14 sends the image from video camera as well as a GPS location to the display 42 of the base unit. With respect to claim 1, Wilkinson has no preparation of a depiction of the environment surrounding the vehicle, other than the picture. If the picture is determined to be the environment there is no showing of “extracting from said depiction relevant information concerning a traffic situation” as is required by claim 1.

The secondary reference to Thomason '039 is a wireless video audio data remote system, which allows an assistant technician to perform complicated tasks using technical support from an advisor positioned at a remote location. This involves the use of a camera and audio communication between the field technician and the master technician. There is no showing of extracting relevant information concerning a traffic situation and there is no indication that the '039 reference has any use in a vehicle. Indeed, none of the cited and applied references show any system in a vehicle.

The combination of references does not yield the present invention – not only because none of the references show or anticipate use in a vehicle – but also because none of them “extract relevant information concerning a traffic

situation.” In a similar manner independent apparatus claims 7 and 8 provide for use of an onboard sensory system as well as an extracting means for extracting portions of the information, as defined by claim 7. Claim 8 defines a navigation system in a vehicle which can provide “relevant traffic information from the vehicle to a second party.”

Applicants invention is not any one single unit or step but is a combination of steps and apparatus for accomplishing audiovisual communication between the first party in the vehicle and the second external party to not only provide a “picture”, but also to provide relevant information which is combined with GPS information to use a map. None of the references have this environment or structure or method.

Newly added dependent claims 10-12 variously depend from independent claims 1, 7 and 8 and define the cooperation between the sensing system and the map display of a navigation system in order to provide the “extracted” relevant information. Each of these claims are fully supported by the original application and no new matter is raised by these claims.

Therefore, in view of the distinguishing features between the claimed invention and the references which features are not shown or disclosed or made obvious by the references or their combination, applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 1-12 including independent claims 1, 7 and 8 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #951/48944).

Date: April 16, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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